

Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending, and claims 1-22 stand rejected. The Applicants have cancelled claims 1-22 without prejudice, and have added claims 23-42 which do not constitute new matter. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 23-42.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 10-17, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent number 6,000,608 (Dorf). The Examiner also rejected claims 7-9 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Dorf and U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0025245 (Flickinger). The Applicants have cancelled claims 1-22 without prejudice, so these rejections are now moot.

The Applicants added claims 23-42. Support for new claims 23-42 may be found in the specification on pages 7-11, so they do not constitute new matter.

The Applicants submit that new claims 23-42 are novel and non-obvious in view of Dorf and Flickinger previously cited by the Examiner. In particular, claim 23 provides the following limitations:

packaging a phone card with a separate product wherein the phone card includes a phone card code; processing the phone card code to determine product information and manufacturing information for the product ...; transmitting the warranty activation request and the product information from the code processing system to a manufacturer warranty activation system based on the manufacturer information to activate a warranty on the product; and transmitting the phone card code and a phone card activation request from the code processing system to a phone card activation system to activate the phone card.

To paraphrase claim 23, a product being purchased is packaged with a phone card. The phone card includes a phone card code. The code processing system, after receiving the phone card code from the point of sale system, processes the phone card code to determine product information and manufacturing information for the product that was purchased. Once the code processing system has the product information and the manufacturing information, the code processing system can contact the manufacturer warranty activation system to activate the warranty on the product that was purchased. The code processing system can also contact the

phone card activation system to activate the phone card.

Advantageously, by packaging the phone card with the product, the phone card code may be used to activate a warranty on the product. The phone card is also activated, which allows the purchaser to not only have the warranty automatically activated on a product, but also have a phone card automatically activated to make calls.

Dorf does not teach the method of claim 23. Specifically, Dorf does not mention packaging a phone card with a separate product to facilitate in activating a warranty on the product. Dorf describes a multi-function card that can be a phone card, a gift certificate, a loyalty card, etc, and methods of using the card for these purposes. The multi-function card may be activated for the different purposes using a point of sale device where the multi-function card is purchased. However, the multi-function card itself is the product being activated. Dorf does not mention packaging a phone card with a separate product in order to activate a warranty on the product. Further, Dorf does not mention using a phone card code from the phone card to determine product information and manufacturing information for the product to activate a warranty on the product.

Similarly, Flickinger does not teach the method of claim 23. Specifically, Flickinger does not mention packaging a phone card with a separate product to facilitate in activating a warranty on the product. Flickinger describes a method for registering products that are purchased. To register a product, an E-Registrar is read or maintained that includes information on the purchaser. A point of sale device provides information on the product being purchased by the purchaser. The data from the point of sale device and the E-Registrar are used to register the purchased product. Thus, the actual data on the product is used to register the product in Flickinger, not a phone card code as described in claim 23. Clearly in claim 23, a phone card is packaged with a product, and a code processing system receives a phone card code from the phone card, processes the phone card code to determine product and manufacturer information for the product, and contacts the manufacturer warranty activation system to activate the warranty on the product. Flickinger in no way teaches using a phone card to activate a warranty on a separate product as described in claim 23.

The combination of Dorf and Flickinger also does not teach the combination of claim 23. Even if the Examiner can show that Dorf teaches a phone card and that Flickinger teaches registering a product, the combination will not teach the method in claim 23. The combination

of Dorf and Flickinger does not teach packaging a phone card with a product, and then using a phone card code on the phone card to activate a warranty on the product. Neither reference teaches or suggests using a phone card in that manner. Thus, claim 23 is novel and non-obvious over Dorf, Flickinger, or any combination thereof.

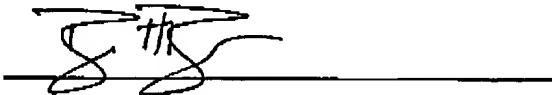
Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 23-42 are allowable. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 23-42.

Any fees may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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